Greenfield
Kilgobbin Co. Dublin

Aug. 3 - 1863

Dear Mr May — The photographs you sent me came all right & I am much obliged ~~for~~ by the trouble you have taken about them & for your gifts — but you have not told me how much I owe you for the purchases. The U. S. States Consul for Dublin has resigned his appointment & is going home. His name is W. B. Hammond of Worcester, a nephew of General Townsend who was killed in the war. He is a young man — but has acted while here with singular prudence & has earned general respect. He brought me an introductory letter from Charles Sumner & I got him a lodging & introduced him to some people who have a greater standing than I have, so that he has had access to very good society — including the Lord Lieutenant, the Earl of Carlisle a very good man & a northern sympathiser. He has an invitation to dine with him this present evening. He leaves Dublin tomorrow.

I am glad to find from the enclosed extract from the D. News that my suspicion is confirmed that those horrible N. York riots were the acts of Catholic Irish & not of Americans. A more fanatical unreasoning people there does not exist than my Catholic countrymen — they are priest ridden & ruled by passion & prejudice to the last degree.

I send you the Times containing a full report of Bright's speech in the Roebuck debate

As these riots were clearly instigated by the democratic leaders I am so hopeful that they may be extinguished by the disgrace which will be the certain result of their successful efforts to raise the mob against the government. The London Spectator applauds the President for the promptitude with which he took effectual measures for the suppression of the riots. Within the last year we have had mobs in Cork & Dublin which would acted precisely in the same way if they had not been promptly put down. I like to see the poorer Irish go to America for their own sakes — but I regret it for yours. For they are the most dangerous element in your population. As to Archbishop Hughes & his clerical brethren, they abhor a free country like yours which is sure to undermine the despotic influence of the Ultramontane clergy.

I am writing just now by an oppor-
tunity by the U. S. Consul for Dublin,
a native of Worcester, Mass. who is going
home. His name is Henry B. Hammond,
a nephew of General Townsend who was
killed in the war. He is a very young
man but has filled his position most
respectably & to general satisfaction. When
he came he brought me a letter from
Mr Sumner.

I send you by this chance the last &
the best carte of myself, & two views
of my house at Greenfield which I flatter
myself will not be indifferent to you, as
nothing of the same kind would be to
me. The house is about 200 yards from
the high road, about 7 miles from Dublin.
In No. 1 you have the front view, the top
window to the left belongs to the "strangers room"
The window under it is my room. When my
dear wife was taken with the illness which
put an end to her life on earth she removed
up stairs for greater quietness & she never left it.
The lower window to the right belongs to our
drawing room. So does the first window ~~to~~
at the end of the house & the one beyond it to
the parlour which adjoins the drawing room:
A lawn of about 2 acres stretches in front of the house

You see me with my hat on - an old friend, Mrs Reilly, with her hat off. My daughter Anne having a frock which of course stirred & made a blotch. No. 2 shows the back of the house, which is higher behind than in front. The window to the right corresponds to that of the Strangers Room in the other view. [illegible] My wife lay close to that window, the last few days when her breathing was very difficult, looking out on the trees and the young swallows trying their wings. The view from thence & from all the back windows is beautiful over trees, meadows, cornfields, & up over the mountain side. With a stereoscope you can see through the room from one side to the other - & also through the room below with the lower sash of the window open. The greater part of the house is what we call weather slated which makes it very dry. The ~~window upper windows~~ The upper windows in the white washed part of the house belongs to what we call the Green Room from the color of the paper. This a little snuggery & contains my library & cabinets & commands a lovely view of the garden. This is all very egotistical - but it's just what I would like to hear from you about your own home.

Hoping these trifles may reach you safely, I am as ever Yours affectionately

Richd D Webb

I send you the Times containing a full report of Bright's speech in the Roebuck Debate

MS. B.1.6 v.15, p.102

Has Gerrit Smith really made a speech (applauded by Brownson in his Review) to the effect that he would give up all his *isms* even his abolition*ism* in order to save the Union? What would the Union be worth if abolitionism were given up — & if the Union with Slavery was right now it must have been so before the war — & the war must have been not only a crime but a blunder. Why need you have gone to war? If it be true he has made such a speech why not notice it in the Standard & the Liberator.

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Ms. B.1.6 v.15, p.102